

CLAIMS

1. An output device for outputting an image using image data generated by an image generating device, and image generation record
5 information that is associated with the image data and that includes at least subject area information indicating a subject area in the image, the output device comprising:

an image quality adjuster that calculates a hue of each pixel in the subject area, and if a proportion of pixels having hue of a predetermined color
10 range is greater than a first predetermined threshold value, executes an image quality adjustment process appropriate for an image containing a subject identified by the predetermined color range; and

an image output unit that outputs an image according to the quality-adjusted image data.

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2. An output device according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined color range is a skin color range, and the image quality adjustment process is a process appropriate for a portrait image.

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3. An output device according to Claim 2, wherein the image quality adjustment process appropriate for a portrait image is executed exclusively on a partial area that includes the subject area.

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4. An output device according to Claim 2 or 3, wherein
when the image quality adjustment process appropriate for a portrait image is not executed, and if a proportion of pixels having hue in a green range is greater than a second predetermined threshold value or if a proportion of pixels having hue in a sky blue range is greater than a third predetermined threshold value, the image quality adjuster executes an image quality
30 adjustment process appropriate for a landscape image.

5. An output device according to Claim 1, wherein the image quality adjustment is executed exclusively on a target processing area which is a portion of the image and which contains pixels present within the subject area and having color of the predetermined color range.

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6. An output device according to Claim 5, wherein the target processing area includes pixels of a first type present within the subject area and having color of the predetermined color range, and pixels of a second type present outside the subject area, but contiguous with the pixels of the first type and having color of the predetermined color range.

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7. An image data processing device for processing image data, using image data generated by an image generating device, and image generation record information that is associated with the image data and that includes at least subject area information indicating a subject area in the image, the image data processing device comprising:

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an image quality adjuster that calculates a hue of each pixel in the subject area, and if a proportion of pixels having hue of a predetermined color range is greater than a first predetermined threshold value, executes an image quality adjustment process appropriate for an image containing a subject identified by the predetermined color range.

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8. An image data processing device according to Claim 7, wherein the predetermined color range is a skin color range, and the image quality adjustment process is a process appropriate for a portrait image.

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9. An image data processing device according to Claim 8, wherein the image quality adjustment process appropriate for a portrait image is executed exclusively on a partial area that includes the subject area.

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10. An image data processing device according to Claim 8 or 9, wherein

when the image quality adjustment process appropriate for a portrait image is not executed, and if a proportion of pixels having hue in a green range is greater than a second predetermined threshold value or if a proportion of pixels having hue in a sky blue range is greater than a third predetermined threshold value, the image quality adjuster executes an image quality adjustment process appropriate for a landscape image.

11. An image data processing device according to Claim 7, wherein the image quality adjustment is executed exclusively on a target processing area which is a portion of the image and which contains pixels present within the subject area and having color of the predetermined color range.

12. An image data processing device according to Claim 11, wherein the target processing area includes pixels of a first type present within the subject area and having color of the predetermined color range, and pixels of a second type present outside the subject area, but contiguous with the pixels of the first type and having color of the predetermined color range.

13. An image quality adjustment method for adjusting image quality of image data, using image data generated by an image generating device, and image generation record information that is associated with the image data and that includes at least subject area information indicating a subject area in the image, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating a hue of each pixel in the subject area; and
if a proportion of pixels having hue of a predetermined color range is greater than a first predetermined threshold value, executing an image quality adjustment process appropriate for an image containing a subject identified by the predetermined color range..

14. An image quality adjustment method according to Claim 13, wherein the predetermined color range is a skin color range, and the image quality adjustment process is a process appropriate for a portrait image.

15. An image quality adjustment method according to Claim 14,
wherein the image quality adjustment process appropriate for a portrait image
is executed exclusively on a partial area that includes the subject area.

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16. An image quality adjustment method according to Claim 13 or 14,
wherein

the step of executing an image quality adjusting process includes the
step of executing an image quality adjustment process appropriate for a
10 landscape image when the image quality adjustment process appropriate for a
portrait image is not executed, and if a proportion of pixels having hue in a
green range is greater than a second predetermined threshold value or if a
proportion of pixels having hue in a sky blue range is greater than a third
predetermined threshold value.

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17. An image quality adjustment method according to Claim 13,
wherein the image quality adjustment is executed exclusively on a target
processing area which is a portion of the image and which contains pixels
present within the subject area and having color of the predetermined color
20 range.

18. An image quality adjustment method according to Claim 17,
wherein the target processing area includes pixels of a first type present
within the subject area and having color of the predetermined color range, and
25 pixels of a second type present outside the subject area, but contiguous with
the pixels of the first type and having color of the predetermined color range.

19. A computer program for causing a computer to execute processing
of image data, using image data generated by an image generating device, and
30 image generation record information that is associated with the image data
and that includes at least subject area information indicating a subject area in
the image,

the computer program causing a computer to calculates a hue of each pixel in the subject area; and

if a proportion of pixels having hue of a predetermined color range is greater than a first predetermined threshold value, the computer program
5 causing the computer to execute an image quality adjustment process appropriate for an image containing a subject identified by the predetermined color range.

20. A computer-readable recording medium having recorded thereon
10 the computer program according to Claim 19.